



**B.A. Maze, Inc.
Canton, Michigan
Robert Mazur
President**

What do you get when you mix a dose of grandmother's advice, the financial leverage of \$25,000 winnings from a SCORE co-sponsored competition, and a lot of fortitude... a *purrfect* solution to everyday household annoyances.

The award-winning PurrFect Opener®, invented by Plymouth resident Robert Mazur, is a tool to help people of all ages open medicine packaging and other household products with ease, speed, and safety!

The inspiration for the PurrFect Opener® came when he saw his grandmother struggling to open up a package that contained her medicine. "I started noticing people using knives, scissors, teeth or just about any potentially dangerous tool to get into their medicine packaging," says Mazur.

For the next three years Mazur worked on a prototype while putting himself through graduate school at the University of Michigan. After winning \$10,000 in the prestigious Zell-Laurie Institute "Dare to Dream" competition, making design modifications, and getting input from his family and friends he came up with The PurrFect Opener® – named because the tool is shaped like a cat.

"Each design element on the tool has a function" says Mazur. The ears and tail pierce plastic packaging and paper and foil seals. The tail reaches into narrow openings pulling cotton from hard to reach bottles. Pockets on the back of the cat are used to push pills through blister packs avoiding dropping the pill on the floor. A rubber pad on the back assists gripping and turning child-proof lids while a magnet is attached for easy storage on the fridge.

"I was in business for about a year when I entered another business plan competition co-sponsored by SCORE," says Mazur. Two months later Mazur was notified he placed Top 3 among 1,500 applicants winning \$25,000 and in-kind services of SCORE business counselors.

The winnings were applied directly to business expenses and Mazur utilized the help of three SCORE business counselors. "The advice and guidance I received from the SCORE representative reaffirmed I was on the right track," says Mazur.

Since last year, sales have tripled and the company continues to grow at a steady pace. The product retails for under \$10 and is currently sold at local stores and pharmacies, and on his Web site at www.PurrFectOpener.com.